

# HISTORY & ANTIQUITIES AYRSHIRE & NOTES ARCHÆOLOGY • NATURAL-HISTORY

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*Unidentified Pend Off Main Street, Newton on Ayr. Can anyone identify this?*

Contributions for the Spring 2019 edition of Ayrshire Notes, including information about the activities of member societies should be sent before the end of March to the editor, Jane Jamieson email: [jfjamieson31@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jfjamieson31@yahoo.co.uk) postal address: 247 Guardwell Crescent, Edinburgh EH17 7SL

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Further information about the AANHS and AFHS including their meetings and publications can be found on their websites: [www.aanhs.org.uk](http://www.aanhs.org.uk) and

<https://www.facebook.com/ayrshirefederationofhistoricalsocieties>

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AANHs would be pleased to include on their web site any pictures of Old Ayrshire which readers are willing to share. Contact to be made with Denis Rattenbury on [info@aanhs.org](mailto:info@aanhs.org) The following images have been included to show the kind of material sought. Please include any details such as dates and identification of localities and photographers if possible.



*Millrig, Charlotte Street in 1969 (with stairway on top of the footway). The building is now demolished and a car park created.*



*Ayr Slaughter House in Mill Street converted from the original Ayr Poor House. Demolished and flats erected.*



*Chapel's the plumbers off Mill Street. This was originally Turner's Aerated Water Factory. The site was originally belonged to the Dominican Friars. It is now demolished, and flats erected.*



*The paddling pool on Ayr Sea Front with the Pavilion Theatre and Ayr County Buildings in the background*

## **THE BACHELORS' CLUB**

### **Care Confided to Local Committee**

Tarbolton Bachelors' Club, founded by Robert Burns and the place where he was initiated into the masonic craft, was on Saturday handed over by the National Trust for Scotland to the administrative care of a local committee of Tarboltonians, at a ceremony attended by representatives of the Farmers' Society, the W.R.I., the Tarbolton Literary and Debating Society and the Masonic Lodge. Here it was, said Mr. Robert Jack, who presided, that Burns first revealed to a widening circle that his was a mind suffused with ideas much in advance of his contemporaries and that he had a command of language adequate to compel others to listen to him. Then, following the death of the bard and the dispersal of his friends, the premises witnesses many vicissitudes.

It was well within present day recollection that they were used as dwelling houses. In the late 1930s, deemed no longer fit for human habitation, the threat of demolition hung over the building. Residents of Tarbolton and Burns' lovers all over the world responded magnificently to the appeal for restoration funds and though the war interrupted the work, events had moved quickly in the last twelve months.

Inside the building, said Mr. Jack, were books of great value and of interest to students of Burns, and for these and other relics they were indebted to their honorary president, that grand old man of the Antiquarian Society, Mr. James P. Wilson, of Privick Mill.

It was 14 years since the Burns world became perturbed over the threat to the old building, said Mr. John McVie, Keeper of the Registers of Scotland and a past president of the Burns Federation. It had been discussed in the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs and later in the Burns Federation, but there was apparently no desire on their part to do anything about it. Naturally they were taken to task in the press the following week for their lack of interest. Mr McVie's reason for taking no part in the discussion was that the agent who had charge of the property was holding out for a price that was exorbitant considering its dilapidated state and the sum required to put it in order.

After the newspaper reports appeared Mr. McVie said he got in touch with Col. Stevenson, then secretary of the National Trust, and was not surprised that that body was not too enthusiastic about securing the property at the price wanted for it. Things began to happen when Mr. McVie revealed that not only was it the place where the Bachelors' Club was founded by Burns, but that he was

made a mason there, which appealed to Sir Iain Colquhoun, then Grand Master Mason of Scotland. An offer had been made on behalf of the Marquis of Bute, the Earl of Dumfries and Lord Colum Crichton Stuart to subscribe between them half the purchase price. Finally an offer of £300 less than the original figure secured the property for the nation.

Mr. McVie said he had had plenty of experience of appealing to Burns Club members all over the world for funds in aid of objects connected with the poet, “and I knew it was useless to broadcast an appeal to the ends of the earth for the Tarbolton Bachelors’ Club unless I was in a position to say what Tarbolton had done itself for the fund.” A meeting was convened of Tarbolton Literary Society, St. James Masonic Lodge, Tarbolton W.R.I. and the local Farmers’ Society and in a very short time they had raised half the total money for the restoration fund.

The appeal was launched on December 6, 1937, and in little more than a year sufficient money was raised to repair the building and restore it as nearly as possible to its original condition. The roof was completely re-thatched, and there is now electric light and heating inside.

During the war it was requisitioned by the army but it was again restored. “Here Burns, at the age of 21, founded what was probably the first rural debating society in the country and here he presided at its opening meeting on November 11, 1780 – Hallowe’en by the old style of reckoning.” According to the “History of the Rise, Proceedings and Regulations”, evidently written by Burns himself, the club was to meet every fourth Monday night to debate on any subject, disputed points of religion alone excepted. There were to be no more than 16 members, all bachelors of Tarbolton, but should a member marry he could continue his membership if the majority of members approved.

They were not always debating, for on a race night in July 1782, they held a dance of which Burns wrote “we did meet each one with a partner and spent the evening in such innocence and merriment, such cheerfulness and good humour that every brother will long remember it with pleasure and delight.”

“I suggest to you”, said Mr. McVie, “that when he took part in this building in the debates of the Bachelors’ Club, he was laying the foundation for acquiring that wonderful facility of expression which amazed the distinguished literati of Edinburgh.”



Tarbolton Literary Society opened its winter session with a debate in the club this week, and Major John Weir, vice-president, on behalf of the original and present members of the local committee, paid tribute to Tarbolton people at home and abroad for their magnificent response to the many calls that were made on them. As a village they were steeped in tradition and, more important, was that they had always been and always would be prepared to give time and energy to perpetuate that tradition.

Mr. J.C. Stormonth-Darling, secretary of the National Trust, conveyed a message from their chairman, Lord Wemyss, who regretted being unable to attend and perform the formal opening. A prayer of dedication was offered up by the Rev. A.M. Paterson, Tarbolton.

A commemoration tea in the lounge of the Black Bull Hotel enabled visitors to view premises decorated with scenes descriptive of the Burns period. Mr. Robert Jack presided. Mr. James Milgrew, chairman, Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs, proposed 'Success to the Venture'. Other speakers were Mr. John McVie and the Rev. A.M. Paterson.

**Ayrshire Post**, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 1951, 10abc.

**This article follows on to that on Stained Glass Armorial Windows of Dunlop Parish Church in the last edition of Ayrshire Notes.**

**Leslie Hodgson** (6 August 2016 and revised 20 April 2018)

**APPENDIX  
INFORMATION ON  
THOMAS DOUGLAS CUNNINGHAM GRAHAM  
WHO HAD SOME WINDOWS INSERTED IN  
DUNLOP PARISH CHURCH**

**Burke's Landed Gentry of Great Britain (9<sup>th</sup> edition: 1898), p.616. In the Article: *Bontine Cunninghame-Graham* has the following entry -**

**Nicol Graham** of Gallingrad and Gartmore marr. 2 April 1732 Lady Margaret Cunninghame, daur. of Wm., 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Glencairn.

Issue: ONLY surviving son was

**Robert** (succeeded 16 Nov. 1775), Receiver General for Jamaica.

In 1796 he succeeded to the estate of Finlayston and other estates on the death of the 15<sup>th</sup> and last Earl of Glencairn and so assumed the name and coat of arms of *Cunninghame* in addition to *Graham*. He married twice and his heir was his eldest son -

**William Cunninghame Cunninghame-Graham** of Gartmore, Finlayston, etc., who died in Nov 1845. By his first wife he had his eldest son and heir -

**Robert Cunninghame Cunninghame-Graham** of Gartmore, etc., b. 14 Sept. 1799; marr. June 1824; d. Jan. 1863, with issue. **By his second wife, William** (d. Nov. 1845) had other issue, including *Thomas Dunlop Douglas Cunninghame-Graham*, late of Dunlop, Ayrshire, d. 28 August 1884.

.....  
**Thomas Dunlop Douglas Cunningham-Graham** succeeded to the ownership of the Dunlop estate with other substantial estates in 1869 on the death of its then owner, *Thomas Dunlop Douglas*. The latter had become owner in 1845. **NOTE:** In the following records and sources *Cunninghame-Graham* is often found as *Cunningham* [sic] and also without the *Dunlop* in his name.

.....  
**Services of Heirs: 1840-49, 1850-59, 1860-69, 1870-79.**

**NOTHING** found for this inheritance for either owner.

.....  
**Wills and Testaments.**

*Thomas Dunlop Douglas*, residing at Dunlop near Stewarton, Ayrshire.

Inventory: Ayr Sheriff Court: SC.6/44: Vol.34 (15 pages).

Trust Disposition & Settlement: Ayr Sheriff Court Wills: SC.6/46: Vol.6 (15 pages)

Inventory: (pp.678-692). At Ayr 26<sup>th</sup> March 1869.

Inventory of the Personal Estate of the deceased Thomas Dunlop Douglas, Esq., of Dunlop, near Stewarton, who died there on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1869.

Given up by Thomas Douglas Cunningham Graham residing at Dunlop, near Stewarton, one [of the 3] Trustees nominated by Thomas Dunlop Douglas of Dunlop in his Trust Disposition & Settlement dated 19 July 1867 and Codicils dated 19 July 1867 and 22 February 1868, recorded in the Books of Council & Session on 11 February 1869. The Deponent has entered on the management .... With Sir John Douglas, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Adjutant-General in Scotland, and Colonel John Douglas of Glenfinart, Companion of the Order of the Bath.

TOTAL estate in G.B. = £241,518-8-5.

**NOTE:** The stained-glass memorial window in Dunlop Parish Church, to him, has the inscription that he was born on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1776, and so was aged 93 years at death.

Trust Disposition & Settlement (with Codicils): (pp.146 following)

At Ayr 26<sup>th</sup> March 1869.

I, Thomas Dunlop Douglas of Dunlop ..... Appoint as Trustees [the above three named persons]. Thomas Douglas

Cunningham Graham is “residing with me at Dunlop”.

[From the contents of this Trust Disposition & Settlement it is obvious that Cunningham Graham has been living with the Owner for a very long time as though he was a “son”; the actual relationship is NOT given.]

There are very specific instructions for the provision of monetary bequests for all of Douglas of Dunlop’s then living nieces and nephews and Aunts and Uncles.

The whole of the Dunlop and other estates are left to Thomas Douglas Cunningham Graham in liferent [not in fee and therefore not his to dispose of], and failing that he has no issue and heirs then they will be inherited by the subsequent issue of one of his then living relatives.

Codicil (1): 19<sup>th</sup> July 1867; states that the owner shall bear and use the name of *Dunlop Douglas* [as a surname].

Codicil (2): 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1868; states that the owner shall assume and therefore use the name of *Douglas of Dunlop*.

.....

## Abridgements of Sasines; county Ayr.

(74) Feb. 7. 1846.

THOMAS DUNLOP DOUGLAS of Dunlop, *Seised* – in the Barony of DUNLOP (under exceptions):- on Charter Resignation Adjudication in Imp and Conf. G.S. Dec. 20, 1845.

G.R. 2316. 191.

**NOTE:** He had become owner of the Barony [of many parts of lands and estates] on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1845 because of a Charter of Resignation and Adjudication [by a Court of Law] following a Confirmation of General Service to the person who had to sell the estate and Barony to clear off debts. In other words, Thomas Dunlop Douglas bought the estate.

Because of his ownership of the Barony he has the legal right to designate himself as “*of Dunlop*”.

.....

(970) – (974) Sept. 18. 1869.

*Notarial Instrument*, Trustees of THOMAS DUNLOP DOUGLAS of Dunlop, on Extract Registered General Trust Disp. & Settlement, .....[all the different lands and estates which had belonged to the deceased].

**NOTE:** The Trustees are legally registering the fact that they are the owners as designated.

(975) Sept. 18. 1869.

*Disposition*, by Trustees of the deceased THOMAS DUNLOP DOUGLAS of Dunlop, of [all the different lands and estates named and described in Nos. (970) – (974) above], to THOMAS DOUGLAS CUNNINGHAM GRAHAM, residing at Dunlop, in liferent. Dated Sept. 15, 1869.

4. 139.

**NOTE:** The Trustees have given T. D. C. G ownership as directed by the Trust Disposition and Settlement. Because he was NOT the actual owner of the estate/feudal barony of Dunlop with the right to sell or dispose of, but was living there as the “tenant” in liferent, Thomas Douglas Cunningham Graham did not have to assume the additional surname of Douglas of Dunlop.

.....

**The Scotsman**, 29<sup>th</sup> August 1884, p.8. Deaths:

At Dunlop House, Ayrshire, on the 27<sup>th</sup> inst., suddenly, *Thomas Douglas Cunninghame Graham*, Esq., of Dunlop.

**NOTE:** See also the **Kilmarnock Standard**, Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 1884, p.2 and the **Ayr Advertiser**, Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 1884, p.6.

.....

## Wills and Testaments.

**Thomas Douglas Cunningham Graham** of Dunlop, Parish of Dunlop, Ayrshire; died there on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1884.

Inventory: Ayr Sheriff Court; SC.6/44: Vol.46 (11 pages).

Will: Ayr Sheriff Court Wills; SC.6/46: Vol.17 (13 pages).

TOTAL of estate in G.B. = £47,913-3-1.

Will (pages 35-45): At Ayr 27<sup>th</sup> October 1884.

In this he names the following: my sister Mrs Matilda McKellar; my sister Anna, Baroness Erskine; my sister Mrs Charlotte Graham Woodmas; my niece Emily Graham; my nephew Major Douglas Graham of the Carabiniers; my nephew William T[blank] MaKellar; etc., and bequests to various servants.

Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1883 at Beath. Thos. D. C. Graham.

.....

## Abridgements of Sasines, county Ayr.

(5951) Feb. 12. 1884.

*Bond* for £2208, by James Francis Dalrymple Hay residing at Auchedoon House, Newton Stewart, and his wife Ellen Douglas Johnston Stewart or Dalrymple Hay, otherwise named Helen Stewart, said Ellen Douglas Johnston Stewart or Dalrymple Hay being the person entitled to succeed to the heritable subjects after mentioned, on the death of Thomas Douglas Cunningham Graham residing at Dunlop, the liferenter thereof under the Trust Disposition and Settlement and Codicils by the late Thomas Dunlop Douglas of Dunlop, and *Disposition* in security by said E. D. J. S. or Dalrymple Hay ..... to the Life Association of Scotland, - of [a long list of the lands and estates and Barony of Dunlop as given in the Abridgement of 1869 above]. Dated 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and ratified 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1884.

407. 49.

**NOTE:** This was BEFORE the death of Thomas D. C. Graham. Ellen Douglas Johnston Stewart or Dalrymple Hay has been recognised as the person who will succeed to the lands and estates and on the strength of this her husband and herself have taken a loan from the Life Association of Scotland, using her intended inheritance as security.

.....

### **Abridgement of Sasines; county Ayr.**

(7437) Nov. 13. 1884.

*Discharge* by LIFE ASSOCIATION of SCOTLAND – *disburdening* of Bond (dated 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. and recorded in this Register 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1884) for £2208, by James Francis Dalrymple Hay residing in Auchedoon House, Newton Stewart, and his wife Ellen Douglas Johnston Stewart or Dalrymple Hay ..... [all as above for No.(5951)]. Dated Oct. 24, 1884.

428. 152.

**NOTE:** The Dalrymple Hays have paid back, on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct., to the Life Association of Scotland, the loan they had taken out in January that year. Therefore, their inheritance is now free for themselves.

.....

**NOTE: NOT one of the actual Sasines for any of the above Abridgements has been read at this time.**

.....

My attention has been drawn to two web-sites which give information on **this Thomas Douglas Cunningham(e) Graham**, advising me that he did NOT have the additional middle name of *Dunlop* between *Thomas* and *Douglas*.

This I had used previously because of the entry in **Burke's Landed Gentry** (9<sup>th</sup> edition; 1898) and somewhere else which I cannot now remember [very bad of me NOT making the note of this].

<https://www.ucl.ac/lbs/person/view/41768> This is the research work of University College, London, on those who applied for compensation with the abolition of slavery, especially in the Caribbean and the American Colonies: **Legacies of British Slave-ownership**.

[ojs.library.ubc.ca/index.php/bcstudies/article/download/1252/1295](https://ojs.library.ubc.ca/index.php/bcstudies/article/download/1252/1295)

Two pages printed from this site which is the University of British Columbia, Canada. The pages are from **Some Further Notes of the Douglas Family** by Charlotte S. M. Girard (British Columbia Studies, No. 72; Winter, 1986-87) (27 pages).

This is an in-depth study of this particular Douglas family and extensively uses the Trust Disposition and Settlement of Thomas Dunlop Douglas and that of his sister Cecilia Douglas (d. 1862). It also uses the information in:

*Old Country Houses of the Old Glasgow Gentry, illustrated by permanent photographs* by John Guthrie Smith & John Oswald Mitchell (Glasgow: 1879).

*Minute Book of the Board of Green Cloth* [only surviving 1809-1820], with notices of members. (privately printed, Glasgow: 1901).

In every reference to the T.D.D's beneficiary Ms Girard uses the name *Thomas Douglas Cunningham Graham*, as used in the said Trust Disposition [which is not surprising].

The Douglas family evidently always referred to *Thomas Dunlop Douglas* (d. Jan. 1869) by his TWO Christian names. On page 17, note 69, Ms Girard states: from the Trust Disposition and Codicils (of T.D.D) "*I have no explanation for "Dunlop Douglas" in 1867 having become "Douglas of Dunlop" in 1868. This discrepancy may be due to a copyist's mistake*".

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Codicil he was using *Dunlop Douglas* as a double-barrelled surname despite the fact that *Dunlop* appears to have been used as another Christian name in memory of a Dunlop ancestor; in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Codicil he used the single surname of *Douglas of Dunlop* because he was the owner of the Barony of Dunlop.

**Burke's Landed Gentry** (1939) refers to *Thomas Dunlop Douglas Cunningham Graham* of Dunlop, died



1884.

Another web-site gives information on **Thomas Dunlop Douglas** and uses that from the site of University College, London (British Slave-owners) and also from the site of the University of British Columbia (Ms Girard's work). This other site is:- <http://www.douglashistory.co.uk>

At the end of the article on Thomas Dunlop Douglas there is a note of the *Bogle family of Shettleston* where Allan Bogle married in 1803 Janet Hunter. She, as a widow, married secondly Graham of Gartmore, by whom she was the mother of **Thomas DUNLOP Graham**. The latter was brought up by his aunt, his mother's sister, Mrs Thomas Dunlop Douglas of Dunlop.

The above mentioned **Graham of Gartmore** was William Cunninghame Cunninghame-Graham of Gartmore, Finlayston, etc., who died in November 1845. The marriage to Janet Hunter or Bogle was also his second one.

Mrs Thomas Dunlop Douglas was **Rosina Hunter** of Greenock. The stained-glass memorial window in Dunlop Parish Church to her has the inscription that she was born 28<sup>th</sup> June 1755 and died 26<sup>th</sup> March 1864.

.....

### **MORE DOCUMENTS on Thomas Dunlop Douglas and Thomas Douglas Cunningham Graham.**

**1869: Death** in the Parish of Dunlop, Co. Ayr.

(Registration District No.591; entry no.1)

**Thomas Dunlop Douglas**, Landed Proprietor (Widower of Rosina Hunter).

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> January 1869 at 5h. 15m. PM. at Dunlop House, Dunlop.

Aged 94 years. [born c1775]

Son of John Douglas, Merchant (deceased)

and Cecilia Douglas, M.S. Morrison (deceased)

Cause of death Congestion of the Liver. 3 months.

Jaundice. 10 months.

Certified by S. S. Dunn, Physician & Surgeon, Stewarton.

Informant Samuel S. Dunn, Medical Attendant, Stewarton Present

Registered 5<sup>th</sup> February 1869 at Dunlop.

.....

**1864: Death** in the Parish of Barony, Glasgow (Anderston District).

(Registration District No.644<sup>8</sup>; entry no.445)

**Rosina Douglas**, married to Thomas Dunlop Douglas.

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 1864 at 4, Park Gardens, Glasgow.

Aged 79 years. [born c1785]

Daughter of James Hunter, Merchant (deceased)

and Rosina Hunter, M/S Morrison (deceased).

.....

The above **Rosina Hunter or Douglas** was born 28<sup>th</sup> June 1785 in Greenock Old or West Parish, county Renfrew (OPR, Parish No.564<sup>3</sup>, Vol.2, page 168 verso). On the page her name is spelt *Rosana*.

Her sister **Janet Hunter** was born 28<sup>th</sup> April 1782 in Greenock Old or West Parish (OPR, Parish No.564<sup>3</sup>, Vol.2, page 113). She was baptised 31<sup>st</sup> May 1782 (Vol.2, page 148). She married **Allan Bogle**, Merchant in Glasgow, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1803 (OPR, Glasgow).

**Allan Bogle** died on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1810; as stated in his Inventory (Glasgow Sheriff Court: SC.36/48: Vol.6, page 221) registered 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1812.

His Settlement or Will had been dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 1809 and registered 28<sup>th</sup> May 1810 (Glasgow Sheriff Court: SC.36/48: Vol.5). One of his executors was Thomas Dunlop Douglas, merchant in Glasgow. Other executors were Bogle family members.

**SECOND MARRIAGE OF Janet Hunter or Bogle.**

**OPR; Parish of Port of Menteith**, county Perth (Parish no.388, Vol.1, page 62 verso).

Proclamations of Marriage.

**1815** Decr. 10.

W. C. C. Graham, Esq., of Gartmore and Mrs Janet Bogle in Glasgow. 3 times.

.....

**NOTE:** W. C. C. = William Cunningham Cunningham. The second Cunningham is the first part of the double-barrelled surname used by the family since 1796 when it inherited the Finlayston estate (and others) on the death of the 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Glencairn.

.....

BIRTH of son Thomas.

**OPR, Parish of Port of Menteith**, county Perth (Parish No.388; Vol.1, page 138)

Births:

**1816** Decr. 24<sup>th</sup>.

Thomas Douglas Graham, Lawful son of W. C. Graham, Esqr., of Gartmore and Mrs Janet Bogle. Born 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. Baptized.

.....

**NOTE:** This shows that Burke's Landed Gentry (various editions) was WRONG with his names. There is NO *Dunlop* as a middle name, **only Douglas**.

.....

**1841 Census:** Parish of Rothesay, Isle of Bute.

(Registration District No.558; Book 15, p.4): at a house in Argyll Street.

Thomas Douglas 60 Mer. Not born in county.

**Thos. Grahame** 20 ditto

Rosina Douglas 45 ditto.

.....

**1851 Census:** Dunlop, county Ayr. [NOT in full here]

(Reg. Dist. No.591; Book 2, page 12): At Dunlop House

[In the household of Thomas D. Douglas]

**Thomas Douglas Graham;** aged 34 yrs. Nephew Insurance Broker.

.....

**1861 Census:** Parish of Barony (District of Anderston), Glasgow. [NOT in full here]

(Reg. Dist. No.644<sup>8</sup>; Book 62, page 28): At 4, Park Gardens.

[In the household of Thomas D. Douglas]

**Thomas D. C. Graham;** aged 44 yrs. Nephew Retired Ship Insurance Broker.

.....

**1881 Census:** Parish of Dunlop, county Ayr. [NOT in full here]

(Reg. Dist. No.591; Book ?, page ?) At Dunlop House

(Rooms with more than one window = 35)

**Thomas D. C. Graham;**

With 8 servants.

.....

DEATH of Thomas D. C. Graham of Dunlop.

**1884: Death** in the Parish of Dunlop, county Ayr.

(Reg. Dist. No.591; entry no.14)

**Thomas Douglas Cunningham Graham**, Landed Proprietor: SINGLE.

Date 27<sup>th</sup> August 1884 at 7hr. 15m. PM; at Dunlop House.

Aged 67 years.

Son of William Graham, Landed Proprietor (deceased)

And Jessie Graham, M/S Hunter (deceased)

Cause of death [Heart disease]

Informant Thomas Thomson, Butler. Present

Registered 29<sup>th</sup> August 1884 at Dunlop.

.....

**NOTE:** Thomas Douglas Cunningham-Graham was the nephew of Rosina Hunter, the wife of Thomas Dunlop Douglas of Dunlop. This couple took him in to their home, before June 1841 (date of Census), and appear to have treated him as a "son".

## Dorita Fairlie Bruce's Firth of Clyde

By

Beth Dickson

*(Based on a paper given at the Ayrshire Federation of History Societies' Conference, Millport 16 September 2018)*

Dorita Fairlie Bruce (DB), who wrote popular school stories for girls in the first half of the twentieth century, used an Ayrshire setting extensively in her writing. She spent much of her life in North Ealing, London but because both her parents were Scottish, there was always a London-Ayrshire axis in her life; she often spent summers in Ayrshire. In 1949 she moved to Upper Skelmorlie on the Firth of Clyde where she lived until her death in 1970. Born in the heyday of Empire, DB was in many ways typical of her times: she was British and very proud of Scotland, particularly its history and geography. The riches of culture and landscape of North Ayrshire and the Firth of Clyde stimulated her imagination. In her fiction, she renamed its towns, villages and houses. It was a place where girls could grow up actively and from where DB could chart the changing role of women in society.

### Family and chronology

The key source for details about DB's biography is still Eva Margareta Löfgren's *"Schoolmates of the Long Ago": Motifs and Archetypes in Dorita Fairlie Bruce's Boarding School Stories* (1993) a scholarly and informative thesis which can be consulted at the Mitchell Library. DB was born in Spain because her father, Alexander Fairlie Bruce, a civil engineer, was working there. To register the birth, the child had to have one Spanish name, Dorotea Morris Fairlie Bruce. She was known as Dorothy or DB in the family but used the Spanish diminutive version of her name when she began to publish. DB's father, Alexander Fairlie Bruce, had antecedents from Stirling and Crieff. He married Katherine Fairbairn whose parents lived at Drummilling, a large farm north of West Kilbride. From 1885 – 1905, the family lived in Blane field on the Campsie Fells. It was here at the age of seven DB decided to become a writer. In 1905 her father moved to Ealing London, having been commissioned to build the Staines Reservoir in Middlesex. There she first attended Clarence House School, a school of around 50 pupils and 6 teachers. From that experience DB was able to generate her first series of school stories which focused on Dimsie, a character who can be followed from her first year at school until her final year as Head Girl.

DB's mother did not keep good health and required constant nursing until her death in 1931. DB's brother, Alan, born in 1894, survived the First World War in the Royal Naval Reserve, married and went to Sri Lanka to take up a post as an Assistant Harbour Master. On his early death in 1927, his widow returned to the UK with her family. These three children (a girl and two boys) were often at their grandfather's house in Ealing where DB was a constant source of care and stimulus. Her niece, Jean, was a subsequent source of school stories which found their way into DB's novels. Not until both parents had died, and her brother's children were grown up, did DB move back to Scotland.

Although her books made her popular, DB did not seek celebrity. In a rare interview from 1935, we are given a quick portrait of the mature woman described by the interviewer as:

a typical Scotswoman on the old Stirlingshire variety. Tall and well built she looks the embodiment of efficiency. She has a fresh complexion devoid of artifice, and her hair loosely knotted. Her features speak of a strong character.

(Cited in Löfgren 1993, p.82)

## Ayrshire

DB's love of Ayrshire can be seen in the way she re-names places and landmarks in her novels:

<b>Ayrshire Placenames</b>	<b>DB's equivalents</b>
Ayr	Twa Brigs
Great Cumbrae	Inchmore
Largs	Colmskirk; Redchurch; Springdale
Little Cumbrae	Inchbeg
Millport	Inchcraig
Portencross	Portarlie
Skelmorlie	Seaward
Upper Skelmorlie	Upper Craigs
West Kilbride	Kirkarlie
<b>Ayrshire House Names</b>	<b>DB's equivalents</b>
Brisbane House (a mile north of Largs)	Drumbruie
Drummilling (large farm north of W. Kilbride)	Windylands
Kirktonhall, Main St., W. Kilbride	Garth
Law Castle	Braidheugh
Skelmorlie Aisle	Seaward Vault

This renaming of places demonstrates a good understanding of the influence of Scots and Gaelic on Ayrshire placenames in order to create these new names which have a familiar ring to them. The greater number are taken from Scots words for landscape features: 'kirk' (church); 'lands' (grounds of a property); 'garth' (an enclosure); 'drum' (a hill or a ridge); 'braid' (broad); 'heugh' (a crag especially one overhanging the sea); 'ward' (oldest form of feudal land tenure); 'Twa Brigs' (Two Bridges). Inchmore and Inchbeg combine Scots and Gaelic as 'inch' is Scots for a small island while 'more' (mòr) and 'beg' (beag) are Gaelic for 'large' and 'small' respectively. There is a nod to religious history in 'Colmskirk (Columba's Church) for Largs with both Presbyterian and Episcopal churches dedicated to the sixth-century saint credited with spreading Christianity in Scotland from Iona. Although Ayrshire place names do show the influence of Norse, DB's preference is for Scots. Only Springdale — a second name for Largs — shows the Norse influence as the suffix 'dale' comes from the Norse 'dal' for valley. But by this time it has become so thoroughly Anglicised as to seem more English than Scots or Norse. Redchurch — a third name for Largs — is completely English and refers to the landmarks of its two dominant red sandstone churches. This ability to move easily among these languages demonstrates an ability to construct an identity which held together aspects of identity, particularly being simultaneously British and Scots, which Scots of the next century



would find more troubling.

DB's interest in language is mirrored in her love of history which is expressed in four of her Colmskirk novels, a series for young adults set in various periods of Ayrshire history. The remainder of the series has more modern settings in time but maintain Ayrshire as the setting in place. The historical novels are:

#### **Colmskirk novels**

<i>The King's Curate</i> (1936)	Set in the Covenanting period.
<i>Mistress Mariner</i> (1932)	Set in eighteenth century smuggling times
<i>A Laverock Lilting</i> (1945)	Set in early nineteenth century with scenes in Edinburgh
<i>The Bees on Drumwhinnie</i> (1952)	Set in the 1840s

These novels tend to impress contemporary values on to earlier historical periods, especially as far as heroines are concerned. Both Anne Carstairs from *The King's Curate* and Philitheia Mellish from *Mistress Mariner* are versions of DB's active heroines and both make that point about themselves. Anne Carstairs is a Presbyterian and a Covenanter, and a high spirited daughter of a local landowner. The novel examines the vexed history of the religious arguments between Episcopalians and Covenanters without being able to convey the ferocity with which these views were held. Rather, as in classic English fiction, this series focuses on themes of family, inheritance and marriages which consolidate family lands and wealth. It is in romance, rather than history, that the novel is interested. With the marriage of Anne Carstairs and Patrick Mellish, the King's Curate of the title, not only is the bride and groom brought together, their disparate churchmanship is brought together too and Patrick is returned to the lands which had been forfeit to Cromwell in a previous generation. It is often such class-related wealth which enables female characters to live lives free from the burdens of domesticity.

From the nineteenth century onwards, archaeological finds from pre-Christian civilisations were found in Scotland. The plot in *The Debatable Mound* (1953) centres on the Serpent Mound in Meigle a few miles north of Largs. The site is associated with ancient religion which is shown respect by the characters. In *The Girls of St Bride's* (1923) the amateur prehistorian Mr Marsden see a burial mound on Cumbrae as part of a veneration of the number three, as it faces natural groups of three – three rivers, three peaks. This interest in the number three is interpreted by DB as an anticipation of the Trinity. A similar interest in pre-history can be seen in the novels of Lewis Grassie Gibbon which he interpreted through a Diffusionist, rather than a Christian lens. Both are examples of the fascination with pre-history which was then current.

Yet this view of pre-history which does not experience these finds as 'other' or alienating, displays an imagination able to speculate beyond the dogma of faith especially when dogma has little to say. History held for DB both the romantic and spiritual sides of life. She had an active church adherence, being a lifetime member of the Church of Scotland. Although her religious faith is not as explicit in her writing as it was in the work of contemporaries, such as Elinor Brent Dyer, it is clear from her views on religious pre-history that for her history held a spiritual force:

"I've got a theory – not original I know, but I hold it very strongly –  
that people who have had a vivid personality when living leave some of it  
clinging around their possessions when they pass on"

(*Prefects of Springdale* p.145)

For DB, Ayrshire bound up language, place, history, romance, books, religion and spirituality and, in doing so, nurtured the human person. It is the physical and emotional space in which she could live a mature life. While a woman of her times, the aspects of life which were of greatest value to her and which, when she was engaging with imaginatively, could move her beyond contemporary values and fashions, were rooted in her love of north Ayrshire.

#### **Ayrshire: a place to grow up**

Ayrshire was not only a place for DB to live, it was also the setting for two sets of school stories: the St Bride's stories set on Cumbrae and the Springdale stories set in Largs. Girls in novels lead active lives. While there are girls who are quiet and conform to contemporary views of women, there are other characters, usually the focus of the stories, who have remarkably dangerous adventures. In *Prefects at Springdale* (1936) two friends who are attracted by the history of the Seaward Vault (her name for the Skelmorlie Vault)—embellished by a possible, but nonetheless imaginary, romance—find themselves trapped there when a storm brews up. They are rescued, in part, by a fellow-pupil who canoes up the flooded main street in Largs. Memories of the great flood of 1910 in Largs may be being pressed into service in this plot so that the values of curiosity, courage and resilience which characterise many of her girls can feature in an authentic local context. Girls are not overly scared, far less traumatised, by such events. They are expected to come to terms with them and be glad to return to normal life safe and sound.

School stories are often categorised as 'Reward Fiction'—books which could be given out as prizes at schools or Sunday Schools. By representing traditional values, skilled authors were assured of a large audience of parents, teachers and moral guides willing to purchase such works in numbers. Although this may seem rather a constrained field in which to write, in her book *A World of Women* (1999), Rosemary Auchmuty argues that within these constraints, the novels 'validate an extraordinary range of ways of being and acting as women' (p.13). Certainly the action-women of Springdale described above, demonstrate physical prowess and mental stoicism; values not normally identified with views of women as dependent and passive.

### **Ayrshire: the changing role of women**

In school, girls could learn about themselves, their peers—friends or foes—as they prepared for adult life. In *Prefects at Springdale* (1936), an elderly character called Miss Peters sets up a competition for the school girls. Miss Peters was 'an eccentric old lady...who took an interest in the education of girls. Rumour said that Miss Peters had once been a militant suffragette...' (p.40). There is a deftness in values here. DB raises the issue of votes for women only to draw its radical sting by attributing militancy to a previous generation, which now seems safely in the past and 'eccentric' out of the centre of current values. However, the use of the adjective 'militant', with its active and determined connotations, is difficult to smother altogether especially since, partly as a result of such 'militant' campaigning, some women had been given the vote in 1918 and those over 21 were enfranchised in 1928, that is, just eight years before this novel was first published.

In case any parental readers were becoming hot under the collar because of this reference, it should be noted that this statement is only *rumoured* to be true. Miss Peters organises a competition for the girls to demonstrate what they have learned at school. The winners are the girls who organised and served an excellent dinner. "I'm exceedingly pleased to think that the strongest point in the education at Springdale should be how to cook and serve a meal ... I haven't a word to say against drill, or sciences or languages—or even business, ... and music ... But when all's said and done humanity must eat ... (p.223). After two hundred pages or so, all fears raised by the use of 'militant' are allayed. Girls in Largs can be educated in all sorts of ways as long as they realise that their destiny is to become wives, mothers and providers of food, choice interior decor and pleasant company. Examples such as this one demonstrate the novel as being of its time and genre.

### **Possibilities**

While it is clear from the bulk of DB's work that she upholds contemporary views of women and the values of domesticity, there is sometimes in her work a sense of greater freedom and independence for women. It is most noticeable in *Mistress Mariner* (1932). Perhaps the most physical of all DB's female characters is Philitheia Mellish, a good sailor and the equal of any boy (also a descendant of Anne Carstairs). In this novel for young adults set in eighteenth century Ayrshire, Philitheia's actions are often expressed through active verbs—racing over the country side; bursting into rooms; being very forthright in speech; and a champion of fair play, memorably, knocking a recalcitrant boy cousin into a burn because he locked a younger member of the family

into a nearby castle although he knew she was frightened of the dark.

Philithea is largely free from parental control as her mother has died and her father is often away at sea. She attends college in order to achieve her sailing certificate as a Mistress, as opposed to Master, Mariner. (Her character is based to some extent on Betsy Miller, a pioneering female sea captain from Saltcoats who famously rescued sailors from a storm on the Firth of Clyde). When her father is with her, he is in favour of Philithea learning to sail and being able to support herself by so doing:

I must live in the free air and be doing things that matter— and I am fortunate in having a father that understands that, and he lets me follow my bent as tho' I were a laddie. And it's not all daftness [...] at least it's like to be a profitable sort, for I look to make money out of it. (MM p.123)

This quotation neatly sums up three qualifications which Auchmuty argues are necessary for girls to mature into women: 'economic independence; freedom from parental control; emotional maturity and space' (p.19). Philithea is economically independent; she is free of parental control in that her father favours and affirms her choice of career (implicitly over marriage); and the sea gives her the space she needs to develop emotional maturity. For DB there is room within contemporary views of women for a degree of physical activity which exists alongside a general view of women as passive. Although the Colmskirk novels demonstrate breadth in her own views of women, this series did not gain the same popularity of the school series. This could be because of something as simple as the lack of the familiar school setting. It could be that the Scottish setting was off-putting for some readers. However, readers of popular fiction tend not to support work which veers too far from the values which they hold and which attracts them to the novels in the first place. Annie S. Swan's *The Pendulum* (1926) which depicted an unhappy marriage with a daughter who spent a weekend with her lover estranged her from her otherwise loyal readership. It may be that in the Colmskirk series, some of the ideas — career-women for example — did not resonate strongly enough with the majority of DB's readers for them to become as popular as the school stories.

In conclusion, Dorita Fairlie Bruce's life near the Firth of Clyde and her love of that area of Ayrshire provided the setting in place and a context in values for two series of school stories which found a loyal, engaged and long-standing readership. The copy of *Prefects of Springdale* with which I'm working was published in 1936 and given by my Kilmarnock Grandmother as a Christmas present to my Aunt in 1950, fourteen years after it was first published. It is still in the family six decades later. While, for the most part, these novels perfectly complemented widespread views about women, there is, in some novels, an undercurrent of greater freedoms to be enjoyed. Yet there is no need to go beyond Ayrshire to enjoy them. Although the nationalist novelist, Neil Gunn, held political views contrary to those of Bruce, in *The Silver Darlings* (1941) he does demonstrate a similar sense of the power and capacity of Scottish places to nurture a fully human existence:

“All I wanted to say, Finn, was that you are doing fine here. You stick to it boy. This is a full enough life for any man. You have everything here- and freedom besides. Don't go hankering after the wastes of the world. They were telling me your story of adventure into the Western Ocean”

“That was nothing.”

“It took you to the edge of death – and further than that no adventure can travel in this life.”  
(TSD p.454-55).

For DB, who lived many years in London, Ayrshire may not have been necessary, but it was sufficient.

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## Sir Alexander Walker, Businessman, Philanthropist and Keen Golfer

Sir Alexander Walker was the grandson of Johnnie Walker of distilling fame. He was the builder of Piersland House now the Piersland House Hotel in Troon and member of Troon Golf Club and benefactor to both Troon and his birthplace Kilmarnock.

He was born in Kilmarnock on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1869 at Wallacebank. His father was also called Alexander Walker and his father's profession on the birth certificate is given as wine merchant. His mother was Isabella Walker maiden surname McKimmie. She married Alexander Walker senior in Glasgow in September 1867<sup>1</sup>. Alexander Walker senior was also a keen golfer and president of the Ossington Golf Club in 1887 when this club opened a links course at Barassie which became known as Barassie Golf Club<sup>2</sup>. Alexander junior joined Troon Golf Club as it then was in 1885. He became acting captain in 1922-1923 having been nominated at a special general meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1922. He was to become captain again in 1942-1943. During his spell as acting captain in 1923 he presented the winner's cup to Arthur Havers for the British Open which had been played at Troon for the first time<sup>3</sup>.

Alexander junior had a legal training before serving an apprenticeship with Robertson and Baxter. Robertson and Baxter had been founded by William A Robertson, also a wine merchant and one of the first captains of Troon Golf Club. Robertson and Baxter went on to acquire brands such as Highland Park and Bunabhain before eventually being sold to the Edrington Group.

On his father's death in 1889 Alexander junior joined the family firm of Johnnie Walker and Sons. The family at this point appear to have been living at Crosbie Tower, Troon<sup>4</sup> – just across the road from what was to become Royal Troon Golf Clubhouse. On his death, Alexander senior left a trust deed and disposition<sup>5</sup> which names his trustees as his widow Isabella McKimmie<sup>6</sup>, and his sons George Paterson Walker, wine merchant, Leadenhall House, London; Alexander Walker; Thomas Hood Walker and James Borland Walker residing at Crosbie Tower, Troon. These trustees became infest of part of the lands of Craigend along with another son John Walker, wine merchant then in Sydney Australia and interestingly William Alexander Robertson as mentioned above was also one of the trustees.

Alexander Walker served in the Ministry of Munitions during the First World War and was knighted for his services in 1920. In the 1920s his name was put forward to be chairman or vice chairman of the new Fuel and Power Committee of the British Government. This may have owed more to his involvement with Glenfield and Kennedy and less to his interests in whisky and distilling. In the Steel Maitland<sup>7</sup> papers in the National Records of Scotland, there are several letters describing Sir Alexander Walker. Sir Arthur Duckham had originally proposed his name for the committee. In a letter Sir Arthur describes Sir Alexander Walker of Glenfield and Kennedy as having 'done a great deal of work in Ayrshire on power questions. He spends a great of his time in London<sup>8</sup>.' A letter in the same collection from G Weir, Holm Foundry, Cathcart dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1926 describes Sir Alexander as a shrewd, cautious business man with a considerable amount of imagination.. 'his interest in public affairs is of the best character.' He goes on to mention Walker's connection with Glenfield and Kennedy, the engineering firm describing him as a very wealthy man whom the

1 Scotland Statutory Births 597/201

2 Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1888

3 Aberdeen Press and Journal 16<sup>th</sup> June 1923

4 Glasgow Evening Citizen 20 July 1889 records the funeral of Alexander Walker of Piersland, Kilmarnock who died at Cosbie Tower, Troon

5 National Records of Scotland Register of Sasines RS91/1013/folio 53

6 Isabella seems to have died c1902 as Alexander Walker was served as heir of tailzie and provision to his mother

7 Permission to quote from these papers has been kindly granted by the Stafford Trust

8 National Records of Scotland GD193/647/5

committee would be very lucky to get<sup>9</sup> as vice chairman.' He was also on friendly terms with Winston Churchill<sup>10</sup> and the Churchill archive at Cambridge University contains correspondence between the two men. He used to send Churchill cases of Johnnie Walker Black Label Whisky which apparently was the statesman's favourite tippie<sup>11</sup>.

Sir Alexander became chairman of the governors of Marr College in 1934 and donated 2000 books to the library there<sup>12</sup>. In a letter to Sir James Morton he describes buying 50 copies of Saint George and the Dragon for distribution to the staff at Marr College<sup>13</sup> in 1942. He also donated a number of golfing books to the library of Troon Golf Club in June 1940.

Amongst his many gifts and benefactions he donated money to Ayr Academy Athletic Club in 1935 for the Alexander Walker Prize. Significantly the club promoted sport in general including golf not just athletics<sup>14</sup>.

He also donated money for the award of bursaries at Marr College to be given annually at the discretion of the governing body<sup>15</sup>. In 1978 the scheme, which empowered the C K Marr Educational Trust to dispose of four houses provided by the late Sir Alexander Walker for the use of the teaching staff at Marr College, was wound up. Originally the rents from these houses were to provide the money for the award of the prizes and bursaries and were provided by a deed of gift from Sir Alexander Walker in 1947. On the inception of Strathclyde Regional Council in 1975 and the new regional council's responsibility for educational provision, the new body did not want to take responsibility for these houses and they were subsequently disposed of in 1978.

Sir Alexander was granted the Freedom of Troon Burgh in 1946 as the last remaining member of the original town council<sup>16</sup> and was responsible for getting a feu charter in 1927 from the Duke of Portland which permitted the creation of the bowling green and tennis courts in Bentinck Drive.

In a letter in the National Records of Scotland from Sir James Morton to Sir Alexander, Morton refers to the latter's interest in promoting orchestral chamber concerts and opera in Kilmarnock (letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 1942) and refers to Sir Alexander's playing in the chamber orchestra at Kilmarnock. Sir James Morton and Sir Alexander Walker were both contemporaries at Ayr Academy and remained in touch thereafter. The census of 1881 shows Alexander Walker as a scholar aged 12 staying in 14 Wellington Square<sup>17</sup>. By 1891 he was living with his widowed mother Isabella in London Road, Kilmarnock with siblings Helen Walker, Isabella Walker and Margaret Walker. Rosalind Josling is listed on this census as a visitor. She was to become Alexander's wife. At that time the family had three female servants.

Rosalind Josling was the daughter of Arthur S Josling who was a silk merchant in London. He died in 1897 after taking ill on the journey to Troon to visit his daughter and son-in-law<sup>18</sup>. The marriage

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9 National Records of Scotland GD193/647/1

10 Churchill archive 10 Jul 1944 Letter from WSC to Sir Alexander Walker informing him that there is no strength in the newspaper report that President Roosevelt is to visit Scotland Signed.CHAR 20/138A/13

11 Churchill archive 12 Dec 1941 Letter from WSC to Sir Alexander Walker thanking him for the gift. CHAR 20/22C/314

12 Dundee Evening Telegraph 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1936

13 National Records of Scotland gifts and deposits GD326/77

14 National Records of Scotland Inland Revenue IRS21/1160 This file also contains a prospectus for Ayr Academy in 1916-1917 with black and white photographs of activities at the school

15 National Records of Scotland educational trusts ED23/2128

16 Scotsman 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1946

17 Find My Past 1881 Census Transcription <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=1881/002968364>

18 Dundee Adventurer 17<sup>th</sup> November 1897

took place at Barnet, Hertfordshire in 1895 and the couple had moved to Troon. They celebrated their golden wedding in 1945<sup>19</sup> by which time Sir Alexander Walker had retired from business.

Sir Alexander's sister, Isabella Walker or Bessie as she was known to the family was also a keen golfer and one of the founder members of Troon Ladies Golf Club. She also won a silver medal for golf in 1889<sup>20</sup>. At that point the family seem to have spent at least part of their time at Crosbie Tower in Troon. A younger brother Thomas Hood Walker is described of Crosbie Tower, Troon on his death in 1910<sup>21</sup>. Thomas Hood Walker was also a keen golfer. He died at a young age in 1910 while staying in the Savoy Hotel in London. He had married in 1907, took part in the Jameson Raid during the Boer War and was a member of Troon Golf Club and acting convener of the green committee. He also was a winner of the McKerrell Cup awarded by Troon Golf Club and presented by Major McKerrell of Hillhouse for scratch golfers in 1882. Like his brothers he too was a member of Johnnie Walker and Sons<sup>22</sup>. His funeral took place at Troon Cemetery.

Kilmarnock Town Council turned down Sir Alexander's offer to reconstruct the Corn Exchange there to create municipal offices. He also had an idea to form a small trust to acquire property in Troon to build a rheumatism clinic for Ayrshire and the West of Scotland<sup>23</sup> although this was never realised. Another letter, in the same collection, from Sir James Morton dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 1942 refers to the fact that they were both at Ayr Academy together and always kept in touch. Here Sir James describes Sir Alexander as '...a serious minded man – very capable – and has always had good ideas for making the best use of his means'.

In 1889 Alexander Walker obtained a feu charter from the Duke of Portland, superior of the lands of Fullarton. This feu charter<sup>24</sup> granted permission for the erection of a dwelling house or villa whose yearly rent or value should be at least double the feu duty thereafter stipulated. All of the external walls were to be of stone (page 194 folio 193) and the house was to be covered with a blue slate roof. This was to become Piersland House, Troon. The boundary walls were to be of stone or brick and the house was to be used as a dwelling house only. The house was completed around 1899 and entry in the valuation roll of 1905 shows the owner as Alexander Walker, wine merchant in Kilmarnock<sup>25</sup>. The census for 1901 records him living at Piersland with his wife, Rosalind, a son named Jocelyn and two daughters Isobel and Annie. By this time the family had six domestic servants.

Sir Alexander Walker died at Piersland in May 1950. He left a trust disposition and settlement recorded in the Books of Council and Session<sup>26</sup>. The trustees were to be his brother Major Borland Walker, his two sons Jocelyn and Alexander Walker junior, his son-in-law Henry Greig and George Taylor Adam, his solicitor. His wife Rosaline Josling was to receive a life rent in Piersland. Folio 65 of the trust disposition and settlement records he left £200 to be divided amongst the professional, club master, caddie master and older caddies of Troon Golf Club. Folio 69 records his legacy of £100 to be divided amongst his butler Albert Frost and £1000 to his chaffeur George Henrie, his housemaid, cook and secretary. The names of his children are recorded on folio 59 as the remaining property was to be divided amongst them – Jocelyn, Isobel Rose, Annie Margaret Walker or Grieg and Alexander Walker junior. The Aberdeen Press and Journal 19<sup>th</sup> June 1950 records his passing describing him as a whisky magnate and keen golfer. The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer of

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19 Scotsman 6<sup>th</sup> February 1945

20 Royal Troon Golf Club archives RTGC1/9/1/26

21 Royal Troon Golf Club archives RTGC6/2 Scrapbooks

22 Obituary of Thomas Hood Walker Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald 18<sup>th</sup> March 1910

23 National Records of Scotland gifts and deposits GD326/77

24 National Records of Scotland Register of Sasines RS91/591/190

25 National Records of Scotland VR90/136/163

26 National Records of Scotland RD5/1950/5245 folio 58

19<sup>th</sup> May 1950 remembers him for his close friendship with Sir Winston Churchill and following his distinguished service to government departments during the First World War. He was also a Justice of the Peace and had been a member of Ayr County Council.

Following his death Piersland House was advertised in the Scotsman newspaper by the trustees on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 1950 for sale as follows -

'A beautiful residence in perfect order, containing entrance hall, large lounge, hall, drawing room, dining room, library and business room, 8 bedrooms and 2 dressing rooms, 5 bathrooms, a butler's pantry and commodious kitchen premises and servants' hall and accommodation consisting of 4 bedrooms and a bathroom. The top storey contains 4 rooms and a small room all modern conveniences including electric light and power, central heating and mains water supply....3 cottages all modern and commodious .. garage premises within the grounds. Contact George T Adam, notary public and solicitor Troon'. It was sold to the Yorkshire Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes Ltd in 1951 and has been a hotel since then.

His personal estate at his death was worth £521,203<sup>27</sup>. Additionally there were also a large collection of paintings which he had been a keen collector of. According to the Dundee Courier and Advertiser of 28<sup>th</sup> September 1950 there was some dispute whether some of these paintings were original or not. A Gainsborough portrait of the Duchess of Gloucester and a portrait of Mrs Kennedy wife of Thomas Kennedy of Dalquharran by Raeburn were examined by experts who cast some doubt on their authenticity. However the collection of about 40 works was mostly taken by the family.

A memorial service was held in St Mark's Church Audley Street London for Sir Alexander<sup>28</sup>. His actual funeral took place in St Ninian's Episcopal Church, Troon on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1950. Sir Alexander had also donated money for the building of St Ninian's and interestingly the secretary and treasurer of the church was H R Coubrough, who had come to Troon in 1905 as secretary of Troon Golf Club. St Ninians was built to designs of James Morris in 1912-13 and the chancel was added in 1921 but the church itself was not consecrated until 1921<sup>29</sup>. The architect employed for the later additions was J R Johnstone who was based in Troon and also did work for Troon Golf Club and later additions of Piersland House probably due to the influence of Sir Alexander Walker.

Both of Sir Alexander's sons were also keen golfers. When the British Amateur Golf title was held at Prestwick in 1934, his son Alexander was a contender. He is described as being 6 feet 7 inches in height and while he played his golf in Cheshire he had learnt his golf in Scotland. He was actually a member of Troon Golf Club from 1920. In the event he was beaten by George Dunlop<sup>30</sup>.

Jocelyn Walker, Sir Alexander's eldest son played in the Scottish Amateur Championship at Troon in 1938. He belonged to Troon Golf Club and was a former captain of Cambridge University in 1921<sup>31</sup>. This event was won by Charlie Yates, from the USA who went onto have a warm relationship with Troon Golf Club until his death.

Kilmarnock may have rejected Sir Alexander's proposals for municipal offices but he also gifted money for building a municipal chambers and a concert hall to Troon Burgh. This complex which was opened by the Duke of Portland in 1932 subsequently was named the Walker Halls. Sir Alexander gifted the land for the building although the Duke of Portland had given money in 1914 the First World War delayed efforts to secure a suitable site and the whole project was completed for

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27 Dundee Courier 13<sup>th</sup> July 1950

28 Scotsman 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1950

29 AAHNS Church Buildings of Ayrshire by John Hume p 74

30 Yorkshire Evening Post 25<sup>th</sup> May 1934

31 Dundee Courier 26<sup>th</sup> May 1938

£40,000<sup>32</sup> with Sir Alexander also donating £10000 for the completion of the pavilion and council chambers<sup>33</sup>. The opening ceremony was preceded by lunch in the Marine Hotel<sup>34</sup>.

Further details of Sir Alexander's life are contained in the entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

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32 Scotsman 24<sup>th</sup> October 1932

33 Scotsman 16<sup>th</sup> April 1930

34 Scotsman 28<sup>th</sup> October 1932

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By exploring poems, plays and prose texts, learn how Scottish literature has developed over the past two hundred years. Explore local Ayrshire voices and broaden your range by including some classics of Scottish literature. Read Robert Burns, William Mc Ilvanney and Graeme Burnet, and also Robert Louis Stevenson, Lewis Grassie Gibbon, Ewan MacColl, Murial Spark, Norman MacCaig and Liz Lochhead. Lecture-based with sharing ideas and observations as you progress. What does this literature tell us about Scotland then and now? Fee £109

**Online booking can be accessed from**

**[www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/shortcourses](http://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/shortcourses)**

**Tel: 0141 548 2116 Email: [learn-ctl@strath.ac.uk](mailto:learn-ctl@strath.ac.uk)**



**Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Syllabus 2018-2019**

Visitors are Welcome

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
11 October 2018	The Neolithic of Ayrshire in its Wider Context	Dr Ann McSween, Historic Environment Scotland
25 October 2018	Duping the Germans	Professor Niall Logan, Glasgow Caledonia University
15 November 2018	Films of Ayrshire from the Past	Scottish Film Archives
29 November 2018	Scotland's Rock Art Project	Dr Tertia Barnet, University of Edinburgh
10 January 2019	In Search of Robert the Bruce	Dr Martin McGregor, University of Glasgow
24 January 2019	Culzean Caves: Recent Excavations	Ian Joyce, National Trust for Scotland
14 February 2019	Recent Excavations around the Medieval burgh of Ayr	Tom Rees, Rathmell Archaeology
28 February 2019	Listen to the Stones: Unleashing the Storytelling Potential of Scotland's Carved Stones	Dr Sally Foster, University of Stirling
14 March 2019	Shining a Light on Scotland's Textile Past	Anita Quye, University of Glasgow
11 April 2019	Social Evening at Loudoun Hall	This meeting will be followed by the AGM

**Meetings are held in the Blue Room, Town Hall, Ayr at 7.30 p.m apart from the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

**The Annual Subscription of £18 should be paid to the Membership Secretary before 1 October 2018**

Beith Historical Society

Meetings held at 7.30p.m. in Our Ladys Hall Crummock St Beith

September 27<sup>th</sup> 2018 Barbara Graham - Women Munitions in World War 1

October 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 June Wiggins - My Ancestor got into trouble

November 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 St Andrews Meal - Lex Thomson held in Beith Community  
Centre cafeteria. Ticket only

January 31 2019 Alan Driver - Coats Legacy

February 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 Ewen Reid - coffee from plantation to cup

March 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 speaker on Ayr Gaiety (name to be given nearer the time)

April 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 Stuart Wilson & Frank Donnelly - Alexander Fleming & AGM

## **Cumnock History Group**

**In association with Cumnock Action Plan, local organisations and schools, we are organising a series of commemorative events in October and November for the Armistice Centenary**

Regular Meetings are held at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August) at Rothesay House Ceremony Suite, 1 Greenholm Road, Cumnock.

### **Thursday 20th September 2018**

Bobby Grierson on The Cross, The Clock, The Flag - Story of the Mercat Cross, Allan's Clock and Covenanter Flag.

### **Thursday 18th October 2018**

Bruce Keith on Bridgescapes - The story of Scotland's Bridges

### **Thursday 15th November 2018**

Young Wummin - Women's role in WW1

### **Thursday 20 December 2018 tbc**

Christmas Social Cumnock Bowling Club

### **Thursday 17th January 2019**

Ailsa McInnes on History of Drumfork Farm, Auchinleck.

### **Thursday 21st February**

Neil Fraser of Historic Environment Scotland

Full details of all the above on our website <http://www.cumnockhistorygroup.org>

**Dundonald Historical and Archive Society**

Meetings 2018 -2019 in the Castle Visitor Centre 7.30 pm

Visitors welcome

**2018**

Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>      Alex Blair      “Admiral Lord Cochrane.”

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>      Alex Hall      “In Flanders Field.”

Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>      Amanda Simpson      “Ardrossan Castle.”

**2019**

Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>      Mr. Watt      “Antiques –Past & Present.”

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>      Mrs. Mills      “History of Nursery Rhymes.”

Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>      Bob McMillan      “History of the Panama Canal”

Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>      AGM  
                 Bill Milligan      “Auchwitz.”

## East Ayrshire Family History Society

Registered Charity No SC029609

Website: [www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk](http://www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EAfHS](http://www.facebook.com/EAfHS)  
 Contact Details:  
     Postal Address: c/o The Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU  
     Email: [enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk)

Location of Talks: Room 10, Johnnie Walker Bond, 15 Strand Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 1HU  
 [Entry is by the door next to *Café da Vinci*. Please ring the bell firmly]

**EAFHS Meetings are held on the second Thursday evening of the months September to May**

**Visitors are welcome**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 7 pm	Enrolment and <i>A Brief History of Eglinton</i>	Graeme Walla
11 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2018 7 pm	<i>Ayrshire Heritage</i>	Neil Fraser
8 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2018 7 pm	<i>1955 plus 55</i>	Tom Doherty
13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2018 7 pm	Members Christmas Party Night	
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 7 pm	Members Night	various speakers
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 7 pm	<i>Rankin &amp; Borland and Memories of The Cross</i>	Elma Bomphray
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2019 7 pm	<i>The Shawl</i>	Frances Wright
11 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2019 7 pm	Topic to be confirmed	Stuart Wilson
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 7 pm	AGM plus talk (to be arranged)	

Annual Membership Subscription: ordinary UK £12.50 / e-membership worldwide £10.50

## Kilmarnock and District History Group Syllabus Session 2018- 2019

## 2018

2 October	“Ayrshire at War“	Bob McMillan
*16 October	“Ayrshire Mining”	Andrew Dick
30 October	“WW2 Occupation of Channel Islands”	Barbara Graham
13 November	”Robert the Bruce”	Tom Barclay
27 November	“Bridgescapes History of Scottish Bridges”	L Bruce Keith
12 December	“History of Rock and Roll	Robin Wood

## 2019

15 January	“Dundonald Castle”	Irene McMillan
29 January	“Duncan Forbes-The man who saved Scotland”	Iain Mc Gillivray
*12 February	“100 years of Gutta Percha”	John Stevenson
26 February	“The Corn Exchange and the 3 Heads on it	Hugh Watson
12 March	“The Treaty of Versailles”	Bill Fitzpatrick
26 March	Annual General Meeting followed by “Rankin and Borland at the Cross”	Elma Bomphray

\*All meetings to take place at the Ayrshire College, Kilmarnock Campus, Hill Street Kilmarnock with the exception of Mid –term holidays 16 October 2018 and 12 February 2019 when we will be in the Dean Suite at the Park Hotel in the grounds of Kilmarnock Football Club at Rugby Park.

Founded 1967

***Kyle & Carrick Civic Society***

Scottish Charity SC014718

**Public meetings 2018-19  
Loudoun Hall, 7.30pm  
Visitors are always welcome.**

Monday 1 October  
**STORIES FROM AYRSHIRE'S GREAT WAR**  
Tom Barclay  
Local History Librarian

Monday 5 November  
**BRIDGESCAPES**  
Bruce Keith

Monday 3 December  
**SCOTTISH STAINED GLASS**  
Susan Bradbury

Monday 7 January  
**MAUCHLINE WARE -  
A COLLECTOR'S VIEW**  
James McGhee

Monday 4 February  
**THE AYR BANK CRASH**  
Denis Rattenbury

Monday 4 March  
**TO BE ARRANGED**

**THERE IS A COACH OUTING TO V&A DUNDEE SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER IN ADDITION IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE. ALSO A SOCIAL SUPPER EVENING WITH CANTANTI (SINGING GROUP) IN CONJUNCTION WITH AYR ARTS GUILD SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2018 IN AYR TOWN HALL. PLEASE CONTACT MICHAEL HITCHON FOR FURTHER DETAILS EMAIL: [m.hitchon@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:m.hitchon@tiscali.co.uk)**



## **Largs & District Historical Society**

### **Syllabus 2018-2019**

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018: ***Hakon Hakonsson Lecture***

Venue: Valhalladrome Viking Experience Theatre, Barrfields, Largs  
8.00 pm

Dr Stephen Harrison, University of Glasgow  
*'Women in Early Viking Scotland –  
Reconsidering the Evidence'*

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> October:  
Largs Museum 2.30 pm

John Rattenbury  
*'The Story of Pottery'*

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> November:  
Largs Museum 7.30 pm

***Joint Meeting:***  
Largs & District HS/North Ayrshire Family History Society  
Neil Fraser, Historic Environment Scotland  
*'From Largs to Lagos'*

December:

**No meeting**

Mon 21st Jan 2019:  
Largs Museum 2.30 pm

**New Year Social**  
Frances Dunlop & Inverclyde Waulking Group  
*'Bittersweet: Greenock's sugar trade in story and song'*

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Feb:  
Largs Museum 2.30 pm

Dr Irene O'Brien,  
*'Mary Queen of Scots and the Battle of Langside'*

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> March:  
Largs Museum 2.30 pm

Frank Murray  
*'Alfred Nobel and the Scottish Connection'*

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> April:  
Largs Museum 2.30 pm

**AGM**

## **North Ayrshire Family History Society Syllabus 2018/19**

2018

- Tues 11<sup>th</sup> September 'Excavations in the Shadow of Hunterston' - Tom Rees  
Tues 9<sup>th</sup> October 'How to Record your Research' - Members  
Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> October 'Anastasia,' at 2-30pm. – Barbara Graham  
Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> November Annual Coffee Morning, Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs, 10 – 12 noon  
Tues 13<sup>th</sup> November 'Experiences in the Falklands' – Tom Ward  
Mon 19<sup>th</sup> November Joint Meeting with Largs Historical Society in Largs Museum, 7-30pm  
'Largs to Largs' – Neil Fraser - Historic Environment Scotland.  
Tues 11<sup>th</sup> December 'Made in Scotland' – Val Reilly, followed by Christmas Social.

2019

- Tues 8<sup>th</sup> January 'Largs Then and Now' – Sarah Goldie  
Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> January 'Scottish Islands' at 2-30pm. – Heather Willimot  
Tues 12<sup>th</sup> February 'Ardrossan Castle' – Dr. Amanda Simpson  
Tues 12<sup>th</sup> March 'John Finnie and John Finnie Street' – Hugh Watson  
Tues 9<sup>th</sup> April 'The Sad Story Behind the Campbell of Fairfield Cemetery' – David Durie  
14<sup>th</sup> May A.G.M.

Remember our **Find your Ain Folks** workshops –

27<sup>th</sup> Sept, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 28<sup>th</sup> Mar, 25<sup>th</sup> April,  
**2:30-4:30pm** in Largs Library Community Room

**PRESTWICK HISTORY GROUP**  
SEASON 2018 - 2019

Meetings held in 65 Club Hall, Main Street, Prestwick, at 7.30 p.m.

Open to anyone interested - no membership - come and tell your tale.

Meetings last approximately one hour with a break around 8.30 p.m. for tea or coffee and biscuit followed by discussion on topic of the night or any other matter raised. We will endeavour to answer your questions. If unable to answer we will try to find out and advise you at a later date.

A donation at the end of the meeting is appreciated to cover costs of providing tea or coffee and biscuit along with running expenses of the Group.

Prestwick History Group meets on the first Thursday of the following months starting October, November, December, 2018 and February, March, April and May, 2019.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 4 OCTOBER 2018  | The History of Weaving<br>PowerPoint Presentation by Pat Kane.   |
| 1 NOVEMBER 2018 | Filippo (King Cone) Mancini.<br>Presentation by Filippo M. Mancini.  |
| 6 DECEMBER 2018 | Stained Glass<br>PowerPoint Presentation by John Rattenbury.   |
| 7 FEBRUARY 2019 | Dundonald Castle<br>Presentation by Dr. Kirsteen Croll.  |
| 7 MARCH 2019    | Wagonways and Tramways of Ayr.<br>PowerPoint Presentation by Jim Irving.   |
| 4 APRIL 2019    | Ayrshire Smugglers<br>PowerPoint Presentation by Denis Rattenbury.   |
| 2 MAY 2019      | “BLETHER OF 2019”<br>Slides or digital sticks and discussion presented by<br>Prestwick History Group and others. |

Convenor : Alisdair W. R. Cochrane, 12 Westbourne Gardens, Prestwick, Ayrshire, KA9 1JE  
Telephone: 01292 - 470234

Sponsored by Prestwick Community Councils and The 65 Club.

Organised by Prestwick History Group

## Stewarton and District Historical Society

### Syllabus 2018-2019

All welcome

Date	Speaker	Topic
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 2018	Prof Eleanor Gordon	<b>A History of Working Class Marriage in Scotland</b> A look at working class courtship, marriage and marriage breakdown 1855-1976
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2018	Mr Donald MacLean	<b>Unsung Heroes - James Clerk Maxwell and Robert Fitzroy (PLUS SHORT AGM)</b> – The stories of James Clerk Maxwell and Robert Fitzroy, two men of notable achievement and distinction
5 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2018	Mr Tom Ward	<b>Stewarton Survivors of the Great War</b> The legacies and memories of some of the people who survived and came home to Stewarton. 100 years does not dim their legacy
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2018		<b>Family Stories + Christmas nibbles and reflections</b>
	Mr Ewen Coventry and	<b>Escape from Poland</b> A Wartime Adventure Across Europe (to be confirmed)
	Mr Fred Dinning	<b>Leaving the Land</b> The Story of a Dunlop Family's Experience
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2019	Mr Tom Barclay	<b>Ayrshire Around the World</b> The story of Ayrshire people's span and influence around the world
4 Feb 2019	Mrs Valerie Reilly	<b>Made in Scotland – Scottish Household Brands</b> The tale of familiar household brands that originated in Scotland. Do you remember Askit powders and Robertson's Jam?
4 Mar 2019	Mr Dane Love	<b>Ayrshire's Lost Villages</b> The story of some of Ayrshire's lost villages and their communities, including tales from the rows, struggles endured and famous sons
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2019	Mr Tom Docherty	<b>Glasgow Photographs from the 1950s</b> A trip down memory lane with nostalgic photos of Glasgow in the 1950's. Gaun yersel!
13 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Mr Stuart Wilson	<b>Sir Alexander Fleming Ayrshire's First Nobel Prize Winner.</b> The story of the Kilmarnock academy pupil awarded the Nobel Prize

**Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered Charity No. 011194**

Address: Town House, 8 Avenue Square, Stewarton, KA3 5AD

[www.stewartonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.stewartonhistoricalsociety.org)

E-mail: [stewartonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:stewartonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com)

## Troon @Ayrshire Family History Group

## Meeting Programme 2018/2019

Unless otherwise indicated our meetings are held in Troon Portland Church Hall, South Beach, Troon on the third Thursday of the month starting at 7:30 pm.

Date	Speaker/Event	Details / Topic
20th September 2018	<b>June Wiggins</b>	John Galt, An Ayrshire Author
18th October 2018	<b>Nan McFarlane</b>	The Troon War Memorial
15th November 2018	<b>Jill Williams</b>	Irish Records...They all went up in smoke...or did they?
13th December 2018 NB 2nd Thursday of December	<b>Christmas Meeting</b>	Quiz and Social Evening
17th January 2019	<b>Ian Kennedy</b>	The Search for Uncle Alex.
21st February 2019	<b>Members' Night</b>	Open Mic. and Q&A
21st March 2018	<b>Frank Beattie</b>	The Kilmarnock / Troon Railway
11th April 2019. N.B. 2nd Thursday of April	<b>Ken Nisbet</b>	Joint Meeting of Ayrshire Family History Societies hosted by Troon @ Ayrshire FHS. Title of talk is "Going beyond Names, Dates and Places".
16th May 2019	<b>Tom Graham</b>	Jessie, the other Js and a gravestone.
20th June 2019	<b>Members' Night</b>	AGM followed by wine and nibbles

## **WEST KILBRIDE CIVIC SOCIETY**

### **Syllabus 2018-2019**

September the 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 AGM and Social evening

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 KIRKTON LIQUEURS given by Janet Martin

November 27<sup>th</sup> 2018 MUSIC HALL BRITTANIA PANOPTICAN given by Kitty Walker

January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019 EASTER ISLAND Illustrated travel talk by Audrey Kolon

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 IRON AGE FINDS FROM HUNTERSTON DIG by Thomas Rees

March 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 HIDDEN TREASURES OF GLASGOW Illustrated talk by David Walker

Meetings take place in West Kilbride Community Centre at 7-30pm Admission £2 including tea and biscuits

## **Out and About**

### **Tidelines Book Festival.**

Friday 28 September 6.00-7.00pm  
Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine Tickets £6  
Dane Love

Scottish Frauds and Hoaxes

The story of five amazing frauds and hoaxes, including four from Ayrshire, part of the author's *The Man Who Sold Nelson's Column*. Local teacher Dane Love has written about the most audacious fraudsters in Scotland. The Ayrshire stories are about the Buchanites (who started in Irvine), Rev Thomas Clifford of Ayr, The Burns Temple hoax in Kilmarnock, and the Burns manuscript forgeries. Join us for an hour of subterfuge and skull-duggery in the company of one of Ayrshire's most accomplished historians.

Saturday 29 September 5.30-6.30pm  
Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine Tickets £6  
Struan Stevenson

*The Course of History: Ten Meals that Changed the World* Many decisions which had enormous historical consequences have been made over the dinner table, and have been accompanied (and perhaps influenced) by copious amounts of food and wine. Struan Stevenson brings to life ten such moments in his new book *The Course of History*, exploring the personalities, the issues and of course the food which helped shape the course of history.

For full Festival information and booking details visit the website  
[www.tidelinesbookfest.com](http://www.tidelinesbookfest.com)<<http://www.tidelinesbookfest.com/>>

or to book by phone, call the Box Office on 01294 274059

## **Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies**

Swap Shop will this year be at the Portland Hotel, Galston, Sunday 7th October 2pm-5pm. Slightly longer meeting, as we hope to bring along a speaker from Wikipedia, to talk specifically on how to go about using Wikipedia to help people get access to information (thinking about all the great local knowledge and expertise available). Further details can be obtained from Pamela McIntyre email: [pamelamcintyre@rocketmail.com](mailto:pamelamcintyre@rocketmail.com)



## Pennylands Camp Exhibition, Cumnock

**Exhibition at the Baird Institute in Cumnock which ran from January till July this year.**

The wooden toys and objects were carved by German POWs and gifted to local people who have treasured them all this time.



**There was a project run by Cumnock History Group to investigate the history of the camp.**

**Please contact Cumnock History Group for more details**

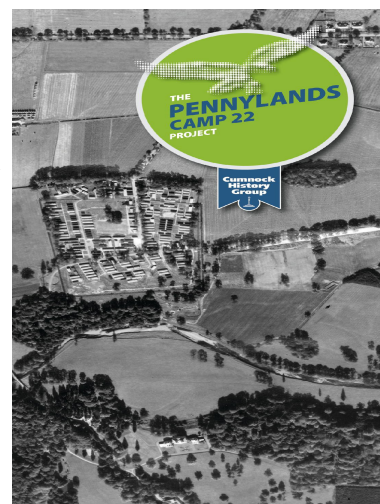
**<http://www.cumnockhistorygroup.org>**

The story of a WW2 Military Facility on the grounds of Dumfries House Estate near Cumnock and Auchinleck

The Dumfries House Estate housed a military facility which served a variety of purposes during and immediately after World War II.

Due to recent plans for the erection of new buildings on the 12-acre site, archaeologists were called in to examine and record the physical layout, various uses of the camp and its numerous buildings.

Cumnock History Group came together with Addyman Archaeology and Dr Sue Morrison from the Oral History Research & Training Consultancy in early 2016 and



developed a three-strand Heritage Lottery funded project that would generate archival research, a public archaeology excavation and record oral history testimonies from people who had lived or worked at Pennylands during its twenty year history - from 1939 to 1959. The project has gone on to achieve some wonderful results – a host of information, artifacts, photographs, and personal stories and memories.

#### People's Memories and Research 2017

Several History Champions undertook intensive training in oral history interview techniques and sound editing, then went on to interview 18 local women and men who had first-hand memories of the camp. Their recollections were a mixture of informative, funny, sad and very poignant stories including suicides, daily camp life, weddings, births, shootings, friendships, hardships, poisonings, explosions and getting chased by the gamekeeper!

The Pennylands Archive now contains over 1,000 research documents, reports, articles, films, photographs and interviews from each of the camp's four phases - some made public for the first time.

#### Archaeology 2016

In early 2016, archaeologists returned to the site of the camp as the now overgrown field was to be developed for the Dumfries House Farm Education Centre. Over five months, the remains of the hut bases, walls, concrete paths and roads, were revealed as the field was stripped, and their locations carefully recorded to reconstruct the camp for the first time since the last families left in the late 1950s.

#### Community Excavation | March 2017

Addyman Archaeology undertook a two-day community excavations at Pennylands.

This focused on the last surviving section of the camp, located in the south-east corner. Nine buildings were surveyed and recorded, comprising five accommodation blocks, two possible stores, a shower/washing block and a probable toilet block. The 30 volunteers were able to learn more about the various skills involved in archaeological excavation, ranging from drawing and photography to the excavation of specific areas with a hand-tool.

#### Training Camp 1939 - 1943

The Ministry of War was granted permission by the 4th Marquess of Bute around 1939 to accommodate British and Allied troops under canvas in the fields around the Estate. By 1942 the Ministry of War had requisitioned the 12-acre Pennylands field, about 1/3 of a mile to the north of Dumfries House. Accommodation for around 750 was built and consisted of a mixture of Nissen huts and Ministry of Works and Planning Standard Huts (MOWP huts), pre-fabricated pitched-roof buildings of different sizes and purposes.

British, Irish, Canadian and Free French SAS were among the troops who trained in and around Pennylands before being sent to the front line. King George VI inspected some of these troops when he visited the Camp in 1942.

#### POW Camp 22 1943 - 1946

Sometime in 1943 the camp was converted to a POW camp, surrounded by 10-foot-high barbed-wire fencing. The first prisoners were Italians, swiftly followed by German POWs when the Italians were moved elsewhere or repatriated. Many of the Italian and German prisoners were sent to work on farms in the surrounding countryside. All POWs were paid between 2/6 and 5/6 per week for their work, in accordance with the Geneva Convention. By November 1945 the Red Cross had produced a report on the conditions in Pennylands which confirmed that the capacity was 4,000 but the actual number of prisoners was 2,431.

The camp provided a bakery, infirmary, library, canteen, football pitch and offered religious services, a choir, theatre group and several educational courses.

By mid 1946 the German POWs were being repatriated and the camp started to empty. For a few months, the camp remained under the care of resident caretakers to give time to prepare the camp for Polish repatriates.

#### Polish Repatriation Camp | 1946 - 1948

Two trainloads containing 800 members of the Polish Resettlement Corps arrived at Auchinleck Station en-route for the camp at the beginning of November 1946. Although these troops were not prisoners as such, discipline was kept in the camp and the surrounding area by military police, British and Polish soldiers and the local police force.

Polish soldiers were a familiar sight about the local towns and villages and friendly, but sometimes boisterous relationships quickly formed. They built up very strong friendships with the local community. By the end of 1947 the Polish troops were either repatriated, married to local women or settled within Britain. Many Polish soldiers found themselves torn between facing persecution in their homeland or remaining in the west.

#### Housing Camp 1948 - 1959

Sometime in 1948 the Ministry of War had no further use for the camp and by mid-1949 Ayr County Council took over the rental of housing in the camp. In the 1949/50 valuation roll there were now 123 huts rented, each at £9.5s per annum.

In the 1951 Third Statistical Account for Scotland it was reported that there was a population of 380, 122 men, 115 women and 143 children. Housing conditions were not ideal. The huts were cold, draughty and most had no running water, toilets, gas or electricity but the tenants were well organised with a camp committee, shop and recreational hut.

As new council houses became available locally, the residents slowly moved out. By 1957 the empty and derelict huts were being sold by Ayr County Council and only a few huts were occupied by 1959. The camp closed soon after the remaining families were re-housed and the site abandoned and left to ruin.

Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding and to everyone who contributed to this important social history project which preserves the heritage of Pennylands Camp.

#### Website and Pop-Up Exhibition

You can view the full story, articles, photos, documents, films, archaeological finds and listen to the interviews online on our website here: Web: [www.cumnockhistorygroup.org](http://www.cumnockhistorygroup.org)  
Facebook: PennylandsPOWCamp We have a pop-up exhibition that can be loaned out to any group or organisation that is interested. Email: [info@cumnockhistorygroup.org](mailto:info@cumnockhistorygroup.org)

- *Notes back page*

## **AANHNS Publications**

Publications of the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (AANHNS) are available from Mr Denis Rattenbury, 4 Ewenfield park, Ayr KA7 2QG ☎ 01292 280593 email: [info@aanhs.org](mailto:info@aanhs.org)

Further information about the AANHNS and its publications will be found on the society's website: [www.aanhs.org.uk](http://www.aanhs.org.uk)

Armstrong's Map of Ayrshire 1775 (reprint 6 sheets) £12.00

Antiquities of Ayrshire by Grose (edited by Strawhorn revised 2010) £4.00

11 Robert Adam in Ayrshire (Sanderson) revised 2010 £4.00

13 Toll and Tacksmen (McClure) £1.50

20 Historic Ayr: A Guide for Visitors 2<sup>nd</sup> edition £2.50

30 The Early Transatlantic Trade of Ayr 1640-1730 (Barclay & Graham) 104 pages £4.50

33 Dr John Taylor, Chartist: Ayrshire Revolutionary (Fraser) 112 pages £4.00

35 The Masters of Ballantrae (Hunter) 30 pages £4.00

37 Historic Troon and Its Surroundings 40 pages £3.00

38 Excavations in Ayr 1984-1987 (Perry) 140 pages £9.99

39 The Church Buildings of Ayrshire (Hume) 94 pages £7.50

41 Mining and Quarrying in Stevenston (McLatchie) 210 pages £9.50

42 The Battle of Largs (Cowan) 95 pages £8.00